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Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 DRC-01 /099 W
---------- 046434
P 082325Z JAN 74
FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4461
INFO AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN SALVADOR 0098

E.O. 11652 GDS
TAGS: PFOR, ES, HO
SWZJ: HONDURAS/EL SALVADOR: GOES PROTESTS SHOOTING INCIDENT

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

1. PRESS HEADLINES THAT FOREIGN OFFICE HAS PROTESTED TO OAS COMMITTEE OF SEVEN SHOTTING INCIDENT THAT OCCURED IN GULF OF FONSECA EARLY MORNING OF JANUARY 6. FONOFFICE NOTE STATES THAT

SALVADORAN GENERAL STAFF REPORTS THAT "HONDURAN SOLDIERS" SHOT AND KILLED ONE SALVADORAN AND WOUNDED A SECOND WHILE THEY WERE FISHING IN SALVADORAN WATERS BETWEEN THE ISLANDS OF CHUCHITO AND CONEJO. FOREIGN OFFICE PROTEST TERMS INCIDENT VIOLATION OF CEASE FIRE, DEMANDS EXPLANATION FROM HONDURAS AND INDEMNIFICATION FOR FAMILIES.

2. FOREIGN MINISTER BORGONOVO TOLD ME THAT HE WOULD HAVE PREFERRED TO PLAY DOWN THE INCIDENT AND LIMIT FONOFF ACTION TO AN UNPUBLICIZED NOTIFICATION TO COMMITTEE OF SEVEN. HOWEVER, MONDAY MORNING PRESS CARRIED SENSATIONALIZED REPORTS AND DEMANDED THAT CONFIDENTIAL

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PROTEST BE LODGED SO HIS HAND WAS FORCED. HE NOTED THAT SHOOTING

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INCIDENTS ALONG THE BORDER ARE NOT UNUSUAL, ESPECIALLY ON WEEKENDS,
BUT HAVE NOT BEEN COMMON IN THE GULF OF FONSECA.

3. WHEN I QUESTIONED HIM ABOUT PRESS REPORTS QUOTING SURVIVOR AS
IDENTIFYING PERPETRATORS ONLY AS ARMED MEN RATHER THAN HONDURAN
SOLDIERS, BORGONOVO SAID THAT THEY HAD BEEN IDENTIFIED AS HONDURAN
SOLDIERS IN THE REPORT HE RECEIVED FROM THE SALVADORAN MILITARY
WHOSE TEXT HE INCORPORATED IN MESSAGE HE DRAFTED TO TRANSMISSION
TO COMMITTEE OF SEVEN. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REACHING HIM
SHORTLY THEREAFTER RAISED SOME DOUBTS ABOUT THE IDENTITY
AND HE SOUGHT TO RECALL THE MESSAGE TO REDRAFT IT TO READ

"HONDURANS ARMED WITH MILITARY-TYPE WEAPONS"; BUT HIS COMMUNICATORS
HAD ALREADY TRANSMITTED HIS ORIGINAL TEXT.

4. WE HAVE REPORT, NOT NECESSARILY RELATED TO THIS INCIDENT, THAT
FAS FLEW TWO F-51 PATROLS ON MORNING OF JANUARY 7 BUT OUR INFORMANT
DID NOT DISCLOSE ROUTE FLOWN BY THEM. SITUATION IS NORMAL OTHERWISE
AND THE PUBLICIZED PROTEST IS ABOUT THE ONLY SATISFACTION SALVADOR

EXPECTS FROM SUCH AN INCIDENT.
MOSKOWITZ

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Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
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